

STARTLING TURN IN HALL MURDER TAKEN AS STATE PROBES MYSTERY

Find New Witnesses Of Killing

Prosecutor Francis Bergen of Somerset county, who asked that the \$5,000 bail required for the release of William Phillips be reduced to \$2,500 after causing the man to be arrested at midnight in connection with the Hall-Mills murder investigation, today will be superseded by State Senator Alexander Simpson as director of the probe.

This announcement was made by Gov. A. Harry Moore at his summer home in Sea Girt, N. J., coincident with the entry of three new witnesses into the case.



Gov. Moore Francis Bergen

Gov. Moore asserted that Supreme Court Justice Charles W. Parker had given his approval in writing for the appointment of Mr. Simpson as special prosecutor and that the necessary forms would reach Jersey City today. The governor added that his only motive in pressing an investigation at this time into the murder, which has been shrouded in mystery for four years, was to clear up the blot which the case had made on New Jersey's reputation for swift justice.

Gets Free Rein

Gov. Moore intends to give Prosecutor Simpson a free hand, and said he might, "on his own initiative, delve into allegations that influences impeded previous investigations."

The appointment of Mr. Simpson follows Prosecutor Bergen's two sensational moves in the suddenly reopened Hall-Mills investigation. Bergen had Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall arrested at midnight last Wednesday on new evidence

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Baron on Hunger Strike Following Wife's Suicide

MIAMI, FLA., Aug. 2 (By U. P.)—As a means of carrying out a suicide pact with his wife, who leaped from an eighteen-story window of a hotel here, Baron Michael Royce-Garret, the penniless Russian, has refused food since he was placed in the county jail, after he had been found waiting under a tree for darkness to give him courage to hang himself, as he declared.

"I'll be dead in two weeks, and then will join my loved one," he says.

In the last stages of despondency that his wife had not waited for him in their "rendezvous with death," the baron, who lost a leg in the World War, and fled the Russian revolution to come to America, wandered for hours with a rope, losing nerve each time he would start to carry out his plan of suicide.



NEARLY FOUR YEARS AGO the grand jury (above) pained to hear the mass of evidence that had been accumulated in the murder of the Rev. Edward W. Hall and his paramour, Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills, failed to return a true bill. Next month, the grand jury will hear new evidence which is alleged to have been gathered and for which Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall was arrested and charged with the murders.

After four years, this is the way old Jim Mills—his daughter is 20 now and his shoulders are rounded by years of hard work—explains he would have avoided the double murder.

Mills Placid; New Witness Called Crank

By EDWARD CHURCHILL

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Aug. 2.—"Even if I had known the relations existing between Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and my wife I never would have shot them. I would have gone to Dr. Hall and would have talked the matter over, man to man."

After four years, this is the way old Jim Mills—his daughter is 20 now and his shoulders are rounded by years of hard work—explains he would have avoided the double murder.

"What's more, if I had known what was happening I would have quit my job as sexton of the church. I would not have been working there on the night those shots did their work under the crabapple tree." He adds:

"The same way to have cleaned up that matter was in talking things over. There is no place in life for passionate jealousy. I loved Eleanor, but my love was such that I wished her to be happy, and I would have given my own life rather than have her suffer."

Mills talks and acts like a man in a trance. His conversation is automatic. He was not perturbed when told Mrs. Howard Hastings of Milwaukee claimed to have been halted by him near the scene of the crime on the night it occurred, and warned her if she talked about anything she had seen he would get her.

Mrs. Hastings has wired former Sheriff Joseph Hanlon of the alleged occurrence. Neither he nor Sanford W. Tunison, the present sheriff, has taken any action.

"Just the work of one of the thousands of cranks who have written to prosecutors and detectives during the last our years," Mills said.



James Mills

New Hall Witness To Help Widow And Accuse Mills

MILWAUKEE, WIS., August 2. (By U. P.)—Mrs. Howard Harding, who claims to hold the key to the Hall-Mills murder mystery, has left for Chicago where she will await word from Somerville, N. J. authorities before going East to give them her version of the affair.

"I will communicate with the officers again by wire," she said, "and if they want me they can find me in Chicago. If I don't hear from them I probably will go to New Jersey anyhow, as I want to do everything I can to help Mrs. Hall."

Mrs. Harding says that she was stopped while driving an automobile near the place where the bodies of Mrs. Eleanor Mills, choir singer, and Dr. Edward Hall were found in September, 1922. She says Mrs. Mills's husband was at the roadside and told her to drive on and keep still about what she had seen.

FIELD HEADS DRIVE
Marshall Field is chairman of a large committee which will open a drive on Friday to raise \$150,000 for a camp for the Boy Scouts of Suffolk county, L. I.

COUPLE ARE ENGAGED
The engagement of Miss Harriet H. Coffin to Otto Harry Gruner, Jr., is announced today.

FIVE PERSONS KILLED IN GERMAN PLANE CRASH

STUTTGART, GERMANY, Aug. 2 (By U. P.)—Five persons were killed and ten seriously injured when an exhibition airplane crashed into a fenced-off inclosure where spectators were seated. The plane was destroyed, but the pilot was uninjured.

Ward Search Called Off; New Hoax Is Reported

Walter S. Ward, who disappeared under mysterious circumstances on May 6, has been in touch with his relatives here for more than a month.

They have requested the Missing Persons Bureau to put an end to the search for him which they asked shortly after he dropped out of sight.

This information was obtained at Police Headquarters from Detective Thomas Williams of the Missing Persons Bureau, following the receipt there of a telephone message from Sheriff Howe of Suffolk

county, L. I., that a note signed "Walter Ward," indicating that the signer was being held captive on an island in Long Island Sound, was found in a bottle which was washed ashore near Riverhead, L. I.

The note read: "Held on Robins Island. For God sake send help.—Walter Ward."

The message was said to be a hoax.

Norris, in Sermon, "Converts" 74; Tells of Killing

FORT WORTH, TEX., Aug. 2.—Seventy-four persons were swayed to what was called "conversion" in the church of the Rev. J. Frank Norris here yesterday, after he had discussed his fatal shooting of D. E. Chipp, wealthy lumberman, on July 17.

Mr. Norris first proceeded to discuss the Scriptural account in Daniel of how the three faithful escaped the fiery furnace.

"I want the world to know," he shouted suddenly, "that three weeks ago, a gentleman came into my study and insisted that I retract what I had said on Roman Catholicism. I talked quietly to him, and J. M. Gilliam stood nearby and will attest the truth of what I say. This man declared he was a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus."



Rev. J. F. Norris

Heated Argument In Car Starts Fists Flying

Two men were probably fatally hurt, scores were injured, women and children were trampled upon and windows were smashed on a subway train of the West End line from Coney Island early today when a discussion ended in a free-for-all fight and panic for hundreds of people.

Five men, who are being sought by the police, heatedly argued in the third car of the train. Their discussion soon broke into angry shouts, as the train carrying pleasure seekers from the resort, left the 55th Street station. Blackjacks were pulled out. Fists flew. There were cries of pain as blood spattered over the floor and sides of the car. Other passengers, including women and children, were struck in the melee.

The noise brought in people from other cars. There was a rush to escape from the speeding train, but the locked doors prevented many from being killed. The motorman frantically blew his police whistle.

Abraham Schinski, 24, and John Bessin, 24, of 748 East 224th St., The Bronx, were struck, and joined the battle, according to the police. Both received a fractured skull and right arm, while Schinski also suffered internal injuries. They were knocked unconscious and are not expected to live. Each is under arrest charged with felonious assault pending investigation.

William Gibbons, 29, laborer, of 402 West 48th St., Manhattan, another passenger, received injuries and was locked up at the Parkville police station on a charge of felonious assault. According to his story, he and the two others were nearby when the fight started.

They were forced to fight back in order to protect themselves, he said.

MAP PUBLISHER DEAD

PASADENA, CAL., Aug. 2.—Robert Allen Bower of Chicago, member of the firm of Rand McNally Company, map and atlas publishers, died at his Pasadena home after a brief illness.